

Please cancel claim 4.

A² 5. (Amended) The optical fiber laser as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second reflective devices comprises a fiber Bragg grating.

A³ 7. (Amended) The optical fiber laser as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second reflective devices comprise at least one of a dielectric film mirror, an interference filter, a broad metal mirror, and a polished fiber end.

Please cancel claim 10.

12. (Amended) A method for combining laser light with pump light in an optical fiber laser device having a laser cavity defined by first and second reflective devices, the laser cavity comprising an optical fiber lasing medium coupled between the first and second reflective devices, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a combiner within the laser cavity, the combiner having at least first, second and third ports, the combiner being positioned so as to be coupled at its second and third ports within the laser cavity; and

A⁴ coupling a pump source for exciting the lasing medium to the first port of the combiner;

the combiner being configured to couple pump light from the pump source into the laser cavity.

13. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the lasing medium comprises a cladding pumped fiber.

14. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the cladding pumped fiber includes a rare earth doped core.

Please cancel claim 15.

16. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein at least one of the first and second reflective devices has a low index coating formed thereon.

AS 17. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the lasing medium comprises a single-mode fiber.